irrigation projects/schemes proposed to be covered under "Bharat Nirman". The State Governments including the Government of Jammu and Kashmir have furnished preliminary assessment of the targets for creation of irrigation potential through identified projects/schemes.

Implementation of Rain Water Harvesting Scheme

3032. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what step his Ministry has taken to make rain water harvesting more popular;

(b) how much subsidy is provided by the Ministry for implementing rain water harvesting schemes; and

(c) what steps are being taken to bring these schemes closure to the common people, so that they may benefit from it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) 'Water' being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to take steps to make rain water harvesting more popular. However, the following steps have been taken by the Ministry of Water Resources to encourage rain water harvesting:-

(i) Circulation of Manual/Guidelines on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend of ground water levels.

(ii) Central Ministries/Departments of Railways, Defence, Posts, Telecommunications, Central Public works Department and National Highways Authority of India have been requested to provide roof top rain water harvesting structures in the buildings under their control.

(iii) A Central Sector Scheme on Study of Recharge to Ground Water in the country was implemented during the IX Plan under which 165 demonstrative recharge projects were taken up.

(iv) Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has issued directions to Ground Housing Societies, Institutes, Hotels, Industries, Farm Houses, etc., in the notified areas of Delhi, Faridabad, Gurgaon and Ghaziabad and other areas of National Capital Territory of Delhi where ground water table is below 8 meters from ground surface, to adopt rain water harvesting system.

(v) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has provided technical guidance on rain water harvesting to various agencies, including State Government agencies, educational institutions, private entrepreneurs and individuals.

(vi) An activity namely, "Demonstration of Rain Water Harvesting from Roof Tops and two toilets in Government schools in rural areas in various States through Community Based Organizations (CBOs)" was taken up during Fresh Water Year, 2003-04. Based on its success, more girls rural Government schools have been covered with roof top rain water harvesting projects, during 2004-05 and 2005-06.

(b) Ministry of Water Resources is not operating any such scheme. However, under the Bhagidari scheme of Delhi Government, Delhi Jal Board provides financial assistance upto 50% of the cost, subject to maximum of Rs. 50,000/- for rain water harvesting to Resident Welfare Associations/Group Housing Societies, Private recognized/Government Schools, Institutions, Industrial buildings, Hospitals, Charitable Institutions, NGO buildings etc., in areas of National Capital Territory, where rain water harvesting is feasible.

(c) With a view to bring rain water harvesting schemes closer to common people, films on rain water harvesting in urban areas and rural areas have been produced for wide publicity among masses. Mass awareness programmes and training courses on rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water have been organized throughout the country involving Central/State Governments/Non-Government Organizations/Voluntary Organizations/Resident Welfare Associations/ Educational Institutions/Industries and Individuals. Rain Water Harvesting campaign has also been launched keeping in view the various target groups. Publicity through print media, telecasting of spots on the television, broadcasting message on radio, holding of seminars, workshops, conferences, etc., have also been undertaken.